

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An external bone fixation device comprising:

an orthopedic articulating module mountable on bone, the articulating module comprising:

a unitarily formed central member having first and second arcuate ends along a longitudinal axis, the first arcuate end defining a first substantially planar flange having a first plurality of teeth along the first arcuate end, the first planar flange having a first width measured on the first flange and perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis, the first width narrowing away from the first arcuate end, and the second arcuate end defining a second substantially planar flange having a second plurality of teeth along the second arcuate end, the second planar flange having a second width measured on the second flange and perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis, the second width narrowing away from the second arcuate end wherein the first and second flanges are substantially perpendicular to one another and ~~have narrowing widths away from the first and second arcuate ends;~~

a first pivot segment coupled to the central member for driven rotation about a first pivot axis, the first pivot segment including a first pair of spaced-apart

flanges and a first elongated worm member meshingly engaging the first plurality of teeth;

a first pivot pin passing through the central member along the first pivot axis substantially perpendicular to the first arcuate flange, the first pivot pin coupling the first pair of spaced-apart flanges to the central member;

a second pivot segment coupled to the central member for driven rotation about a second pivot axis, the second pivot axis being substantially perpendicular to the first pivot axis, the second pivot segment including a second pair of spaced-apart flanges and a second elongated worm member meshingly engaging the second plurality of the teeth, the second worm member perpendicular to the first worm member; and

a second pivot pin passing through the central member along the second pivot axis perpendicular to the second arcuate flange, the second pivot pin coupling the second pair of spaced-apart flanges to the central member.

13-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The external bone fixation device of Claim 12, wherein the first and second arcuate ends extend along arcs of less than 180 degrees.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) An external bone fixation device comprising:
first and second orthopedic mounting members mountable on bone; and
an articulating module coupled to the mounting members, the articulating module comprising:

a unitarily formed central member having first and second arcuate ends along a longitudinal axis, the first arcuate end defining a first flange having a first plurality of teeth along an arc of less than 180 degrees and the second arcuate end defining a second flange having a second plurality of teeth along an arc of less than 180 degrees, wherein the first and second flanges are at opposite ends of one another along the longitudinal axis and substantially perpendicular to one another, the first and second flanges having corresponding first and second widths measured on the first and second flanges and perpendicularly to the longitudinal axis, the first and second widths narrowing away from the first and second arcuate ends ~~widths toward one another~~ along the longitudinal axis; and

first and second translation segments coupled to the central member, the first and second translation segments including corresponding first and second threaded worm members meshingly coupled to the first and second mounting members for controlled translation along first and second translation axes, the second translation axis being substantially perpendicular to the first translation axis and substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the central member.

19. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 18, further comprising first and second pivot segments respectively extending from the first and second translation segments, the first and second pivot segments pivotably coupled to the central member for controlled rotation about respective first and second pivot axes, wherein the first pivot axis is substantially perpendicular to the second pivot axis.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 19, wherein the first and second pivot segments include corresponding first and second threaded worm members substantially perpendicular to one another and meshingly engaged with the central member for relative rotation about the corresponding first and second pivot axes.

22. (Currently Amended) An articulating module for an external bone_fixation device, the articulating module comprising:

a unitarily formed central member having first and second arcuate ends along a longitudinal axis, the first arcuate end defining a first substantially planar flange having a first plurality of teeth and the second arcuate end defining a second substantially planar flange having a second plurality of teeth, wherein the first and second flanges are substantially perpendicular to one another;

first and second pivot segments coupled to the central member for rotation about first and second pivot axes, the pivot axes substantially perpendicular to one another and to the longitudinal axis;

first and second worm members meshingly engaging the first and second pluralities of teeth respectively, the first and second worm members substantially perpendicular to one another;

first and second mounting members mountable on bone; and

first and second translation segments extending from the first and second pivot segments, the first and second translation segments including corresponding first and second threaded worm members meshingly engaged with the corresponding first and second mounting members for translation along first and second translation axes, the first and second translation axes substantially perpendicular to one another and to the longitudinal axis of the central member.

23-37. (Canceled)